

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the application in view of this Amendment.

Claim 1 is amended.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites analysing the effluents of different sections of a material library by recording and analysing at least one photoacoustic signal. Claim 1 is amended to specify that the analyses are performed in parallel.

This is not suggested in U.S. Patent No. 6,087,181 to Cong, even in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,492,862 to Grynberg, et al. Although, in his Background, Cong mentions photoacoustic analysis with reference to a material library with different effluents, he does not suggest analyzing the different effluents in parallel as claimed. Similarly, although Grynberg discloses photoacoustic analysis, he does not suggest analyzing different effluents in parallel as claimed. Nor does Grynberg disclose the claimed material library. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claims 2-25

Claims 2-25 depend from claim 1. The limitations that they add to claim 1 distinguish claims 2-25 further from the prior art. Claims 2-25 are therefore also patentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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